

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

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CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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SUBJECT: REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) ATHENS 8805 (B) ANKARA 6488

1. SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT
RESOLUTION ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE AND CONCERN THAT TURKEY
COVETS AT LEAST SOME OF THE GREEK AEGEAN ISLANDS SHARED THE
BILLING AS LEAD STORIES IN THE MEDIA TODAY (AUGUST 24).

WITH RESPECT TO UNSC DEVELOPMENTS, THE MEDIA SHOWED A
DEGREE OF EXPECTATION AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT

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THE OUTCOME OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE U.S.,

BRITAIN, ITALY AND FRANCE WILL BE. THE NEWS REPORTS STATED THAT A CLOSED SESSION OF THE UNSC WAS HELD YESTERDAY EVENING WHEN A TWENTY-FOUR HOURS RECESS WAS CALLED TO ALLOW FURTHER CONSULTATION, AFTER WHICH IT IS LIKELY THAT A RESOLUTION OF SORTS MAY BE ADOPTED. SOME VERSIONS SPECULATED THAT THE ULTIMATE RESOLUTION WILL CONTAIN ELEMENTS FAVORABLE TO GREECE, WHEREAS OTHERS SAY THE FINAL VERSION WILL BE STRIPPED OF ITS SUBSTANCE AND BE VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS. THERE ARE SOME COMMENTS THAT WHILE THE U.S. IS STRIVING FOR A RESULT FAVORING GREECE,

LIBYA AND PAKISTAN MAY PUSH FOR LAST MINUTE AMENDMENTS FAVORABLE TO TURKEY.

2. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS, SUCH AS PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS AND OPPOSITION, LIBERAL TO VIMA, HEADLINED ONCE AGAIN THAT THE TURKS ARE AFTER THE EASTERN AEGEAN ISLANDS. REFERRING TO THE LATEST REMARKS BY THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER PUBLISHED IN THE TURKISH DAILY MILLIYET (REFTEL B), TO THE EFFECT THAT DEMIREL WILL CONTINUE TO CALL THE ISLANDS THE "AEGEAN ISLANDS" (AS OPPOSED TO GREEK ISLANDS) AND THAT EVERYONE MAY INTERPRET THIS CATEGORIZATION AS HE WISHES, SOME STRESSED THAT DEMIREL'S PHRASEOLOGY AND HIS EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO DEMILITARIZE THE EASTERN AEGEAN ISLANDS WERE EVIDENCE THAT THE TURKS SEEK TO REGAIN PART OF THE GREEK ISLANDS IN THE AEGEAN. THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT TURKEY WAS NOW TRYING TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE MILITARIZATION OF THE ISLANDS AS THE MAIN ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, MOST REPORTS IN THE PRESS AND THE RADIO MENTION TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENTS IN NEW YORK IN WHICH HE WELCOMED CARAMANLIS' COMMENTS THAT GREECE IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE, AT ANY LEVEL, DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT IN CAGLAYANGIL'S VIEW IT WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE IF HIGH-LEVEL TALKS WERE TO TAKE PLACE AT THIS STAGE.

4. COMMENTS BY VISITING CYPRIOT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS (WHO ARRIVED FROM NAIROBI LATE SUNDAY NIGHT) AND PRIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTER CARAMANLIS, FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING TOGETHER YESTERDAY (AUGUST 23), ALSO WERE THE FOCUS OF CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT MAKARIOS AS "VERY USEFUL" AND TOLD REPORTERS BOTH HE AND THE ARCHBISHOP AGREED THAT THE TURKS WERE UNWILLING "TO ACCEPT A SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE DIALOGUE ON A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT". CARAMANLIS ALSO STRESSED THAT WHILE THE CYPRUS QUESTION AND THE

AEGEAN DISPUTE WERE NOT NECESSARILY IDENTICAL, THEY WERE, NEVERTHELESS, RELATED AND THIS UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE GOC. WHEN MAKARIOS SAID THAT THERE WAS "A COMPLETE IDENTITY OF VIEWS" BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE HANDLING OF "THE CYPRUS ISSUE", CARAMANLIS HASTENED TO INTERJECT THAT ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS ALSO AGREED ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IS HANDLING THE AEGEAN ISSUE, A FACT WHICH THE CYPRIOT PRESIDENT THEN QUICKLY CONFIRMED "ABSOLUTELY". (PRESIDENT MAKARIOS DEPARTED SHORTLY AFTER NOON TODAY FOR CYPRUS.)

5. THE MEDIA ALSO NOTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE WILL HOLD ITS HEARING ON THE GREEK COMPLAINT TOMORROW, WITH VARIOUS REPORTS ALLEGING THAT THE TURKS ARE STILL UNDECIDED WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL ATTEND. THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE GREEK RECOURSE AGAINST TURKEY IS REPRINTED IN MUCH OF THE PRESS. ALSO RECEIVING WIDE MENTION IS A CALL BY OPPOSITION UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA) LEADER ILIAS ILIOU FOR RESTRAINT, FOR THE NEED FOR BROAD SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF DEMAGOGY. THERE ARE SCATTERED REFERENCES TO THE FACT THAT THE SISMIR I HAS RETURNED TO IZMIR FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE THIRD PHASE OF ITS RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE AEGEAN DURING WHICH "NO INCIDENTS" WERE REPORTED. FINALLY, OPPOSITIONIST PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU GAVE AN INTERVIEW IN PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI IN WHICH HE ATTACKED BOTH THE U.S. AND THE USSR FOR THEIR PRO-TURKISH ATTITUDE AND LISTED A SERIES OF STEPS THE GOG SHOULD TAKE SUCH AS PROCLAIMING A 12-MILE LIMIT AND SETTING A D-DAY BEYOND WHICH GREECE WOULD NOT TOLERATE PROVOCATIONS BY THE SISMIR. CLAIMING THAT GREECE MUST BE FIRM IN COUNTERING TURKEY, PAPANDREOU LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID HIS PREVIOUS EXHORTATION TO "SINK THE SISMIR I" SHOULD BE TAKEN FIGURATIVELY, NOT LITERALLY.
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